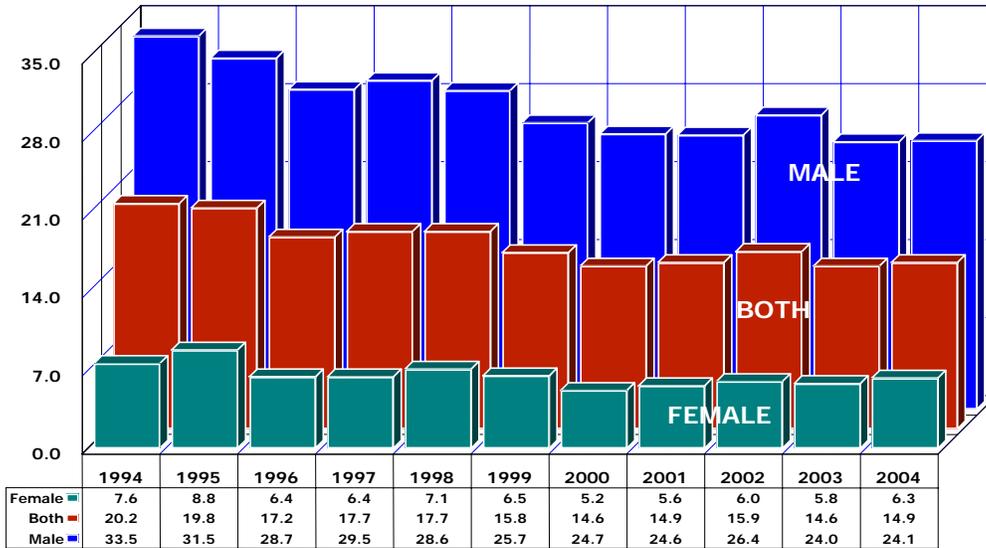


INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-1
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) by Gender and Year, Arizona, 1994-2004



Number of deaths per 100,000 population age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard.

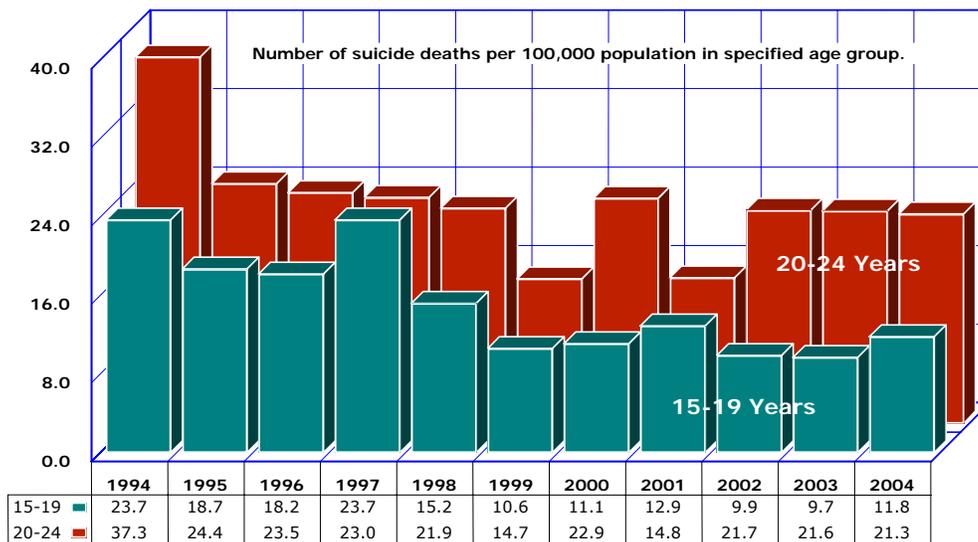
The age-adjusted suicide rate increased slightly from 14.6/100,000 in 2003 to 14.9/100,000 in 2004. (Figure 3-1, Table 3-1). In 2004, there were 854 suicides among Arizona residents, compared to 807 in 2003 and 855 in 2002.

In the 1994-2004 period, no suicide death rate among Arizona's males was below 24.0/100,000. In contrast, none of the annual female death rates from suicide exceeded 8.8/100,000 during that period.

The 2004 male risk for intentional self-harm (24.1/100,000) exceeded 3.8 times the female risk of 6.3/100,000. In 2004, males accounted for 78.9 percent of all suicides.

The suicide statistics for 2000-2001, both numbers and rates, should be used with caution (see *Technical Notes* for more detail).

Figure 3-2
Suicide Mortality Rates by Year for Adolescents 15-19 Years Old and Young Adults Ages 20-24, Arizona, 1994-2004



The suicide rate for adolescents 15-19 years old increased from 9.7 per 100,000 in 2003 to 11.8 per 100,000 in 2004, the first annual increase since 2002 (Figure 3-2, Table 3-3). In 2004, there were 49 suicides among Arizona adolescents 15-19 years, compared to 39 suicides both in 2002 and 2003.

In contrast, the annual suicide rates for young adults 20-24 years old remained unchanged in 2004 at 21.3 deaths per 100,000. In 2004, there were 88 suicides among young Arizona adults 20-24 years old, compared to 108 suicides in 1994.

Note: see footnote to Table 3-1. The rates for 2001 are from the WISQARS site at http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html.

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

In 1994-2004, the average annual suicide rate of 27.6 suicides per 100,000 American Indian adolescents 15-19 years old exceeded by 91.7 percent the rate for all Arizona adolescents (14.4 suicides per 100,000 per year, **Figure 3-3**). American Indians, who accounted for 8.1 percent of Arizona adolescents 15-19 years old in 1994-2004, disproportionately accounted for 15.6 percent of all adolescent suicides.

If the average annual suicide rate for American Indian adolescents applied to all Arizonans 15-19 years old in 1994-2004, 1,033 would have died from self-inflicted injuries in suicide during that time, 494 more than 539 who actually did.

Figure 3-3
Average Annual Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnic Group
Among Adolescents 15-19 Years Old,
Arizona, 1994-2004

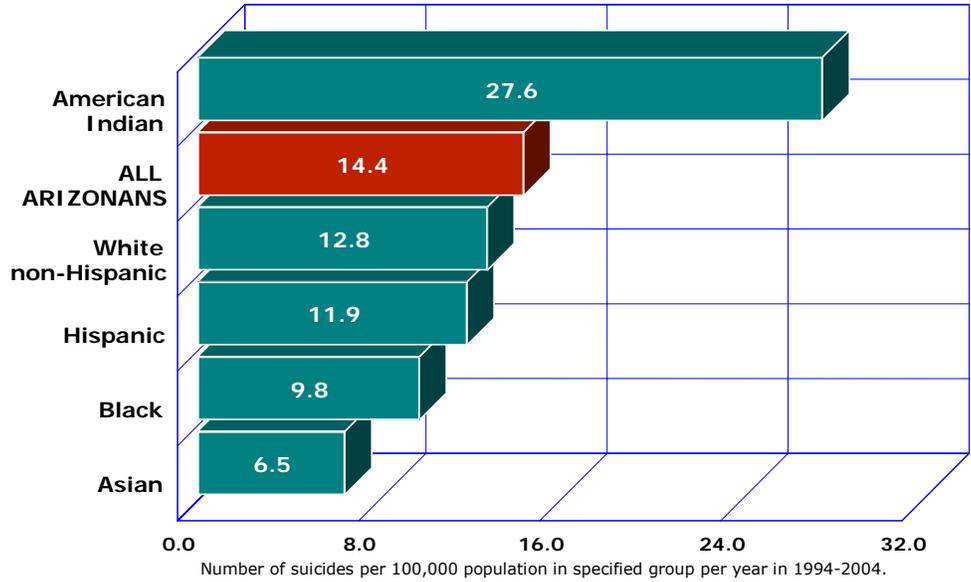
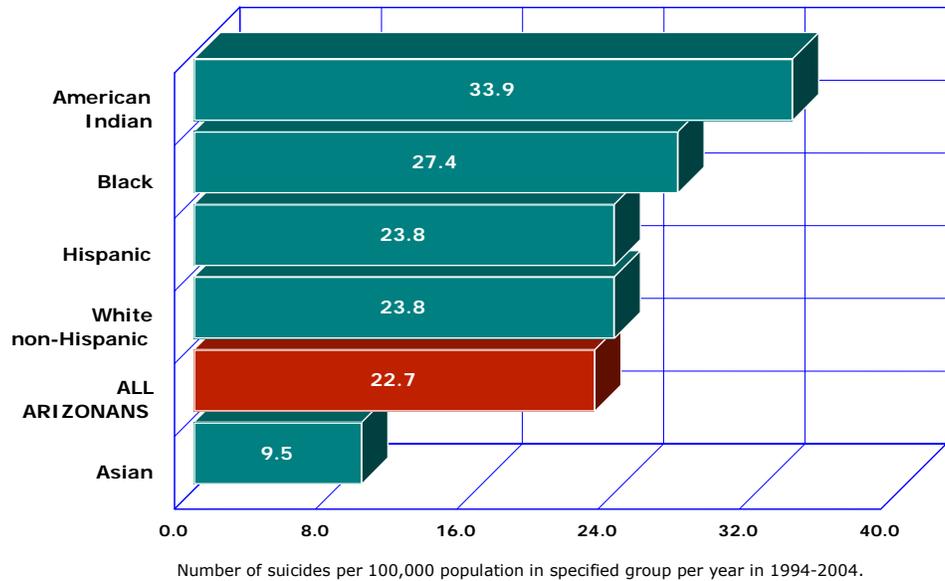


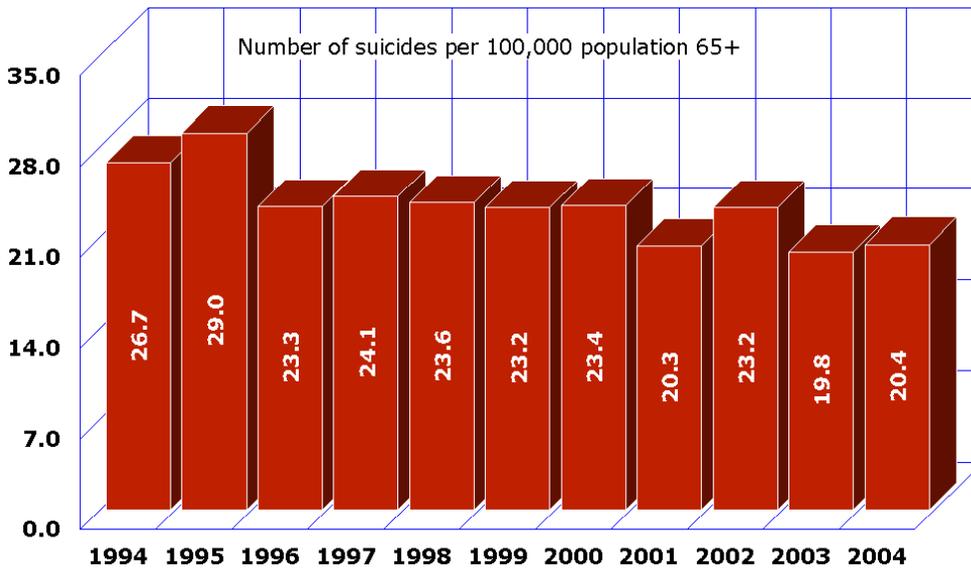
Figure 3-4
Average Annual Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnic Group
Among Young Adults 20-24 Years Old,
Arizona, 1994-2004

Among young adults 20-24 years old, the average annual suicide rate (computed for the entire period 1994-2004) for American Indians also was the highest rate among the race/ethnic groups in Arizona. In contrast, the suicide rate among Asian or Pacific Islander residents of Arizona was 58.2 percent lower than the rate for all groups (**Figure 3-4**).



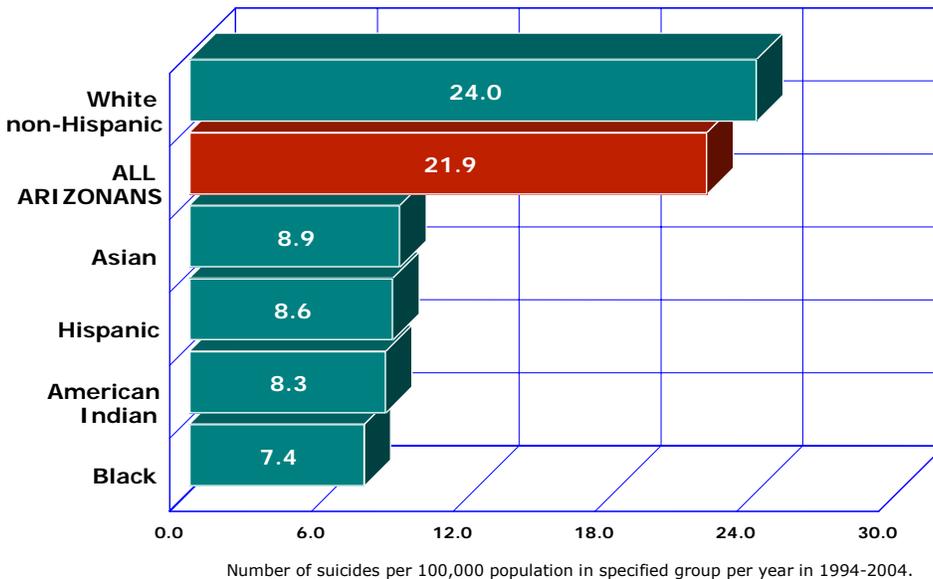
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-5
Suicide Mortality Rates by Year Among Elderly 65 Years or Older, Arizona, 1994-2004



Suicide rate among elderly Arizonans 65 years or older increased from 19.8 suicides per 100,000 in 2003 to 20.4/100,000 in 2004. In spite of this increase, it was the second lowest rate of the 1994-2004 period (**Figure 3-5**). In 2004, 154 elderly Arizonans 65 years or older died from self-inflicted injuries, compared to 145 in 2003 (**Table 3-4**).

Figure 3-6
Average Annual Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnic Group Among Elderly 65 Years or Older, Arizona, 1994-2004



In 1994-2004, the average annual suicide rate of White non-Hispanic elderly 65 years or older was the highest rate among the race/ethnic groups (**Figure 3-6**). In contrast, the lowest suicide rate was among the Black elderly 65 year or older. The suicide rate of White non-Hispanic elderly was 3.2 times greater than the suicide rate of Black elderly Arizonans.

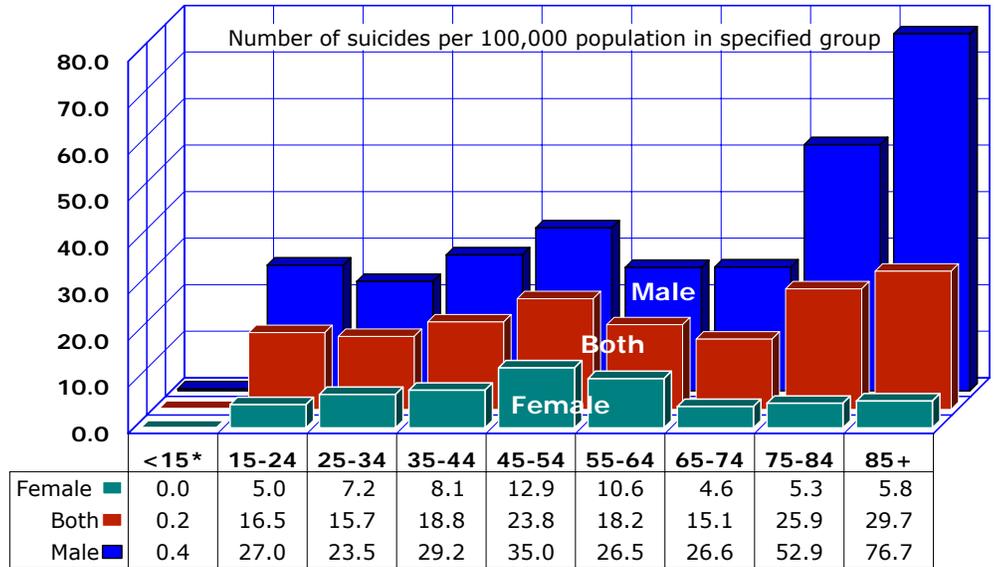
INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

Among males, the 2004 suicide mortality curve was bimodal (Figure 3-7, Table 3-5) reaching the first peak at ages 45-54 years (35.0/100,000), tapering off to 26.5 – 26.6/100,000 at ages 55-74, and rising to a second peak among the elderly 85 years or older (76.7/100,000). The suicide rate among the oldest was the highest rate among all age groups in Arizona. Among females, the highest suicide rate was among those 45-54 years old (12.9 suicides per 100,000).

The 2004 suicide rate among males 85+ years old was 13.2 times greater than the corresponding female rate of 5.8/100,000. In 2004, males accounted for 81.4 percent of all suicides among Arizonans 85 years or older.

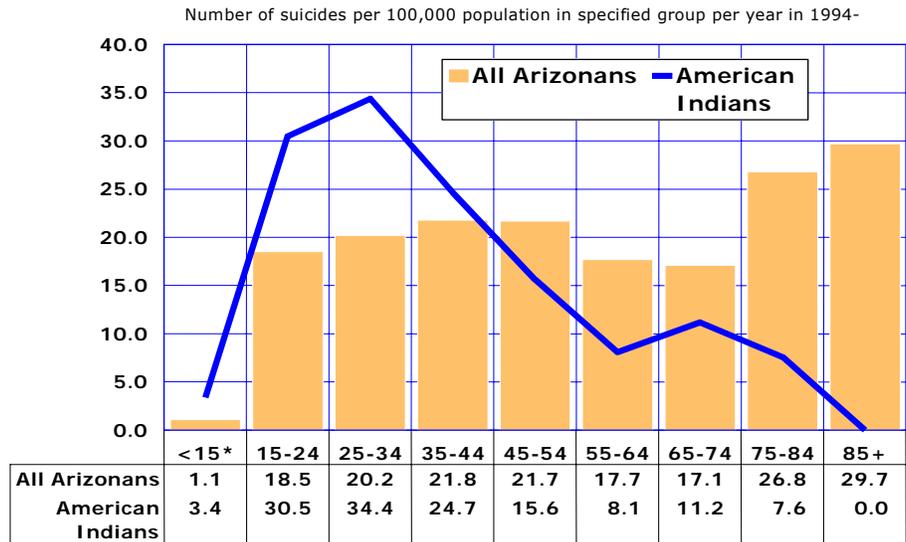
Figure 3-7
Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group and Gender, Arizona, 2004



* 5-14 years old.

Figures 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11 and 3-12 reveal ethnic patterns in age-specific suicide mortality. Among American Indian residents of the State in 1994-2004, the highest average annual suicides rates were those of children, adolescents and young adults (Figure 3-8). After reaching its peak at ages 25-34 years (34.4 suicides per 100,000 persons per year), the suicide rate dropped 28.2 percent to 24.7/100,000 among American Indians who were 35-44 years old in 1994-2004. There were no suicides among the oldest American Indians 85 years or older.

Figure 3-8
Comparison of Average Annual Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group Among American Indians and All Residents of Arizona, 1994-2004

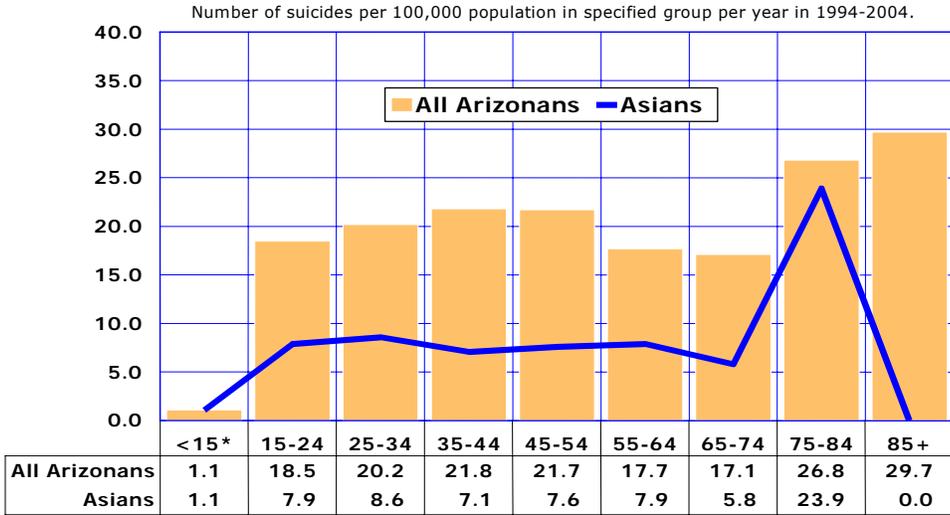


* 5-14 years old.

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

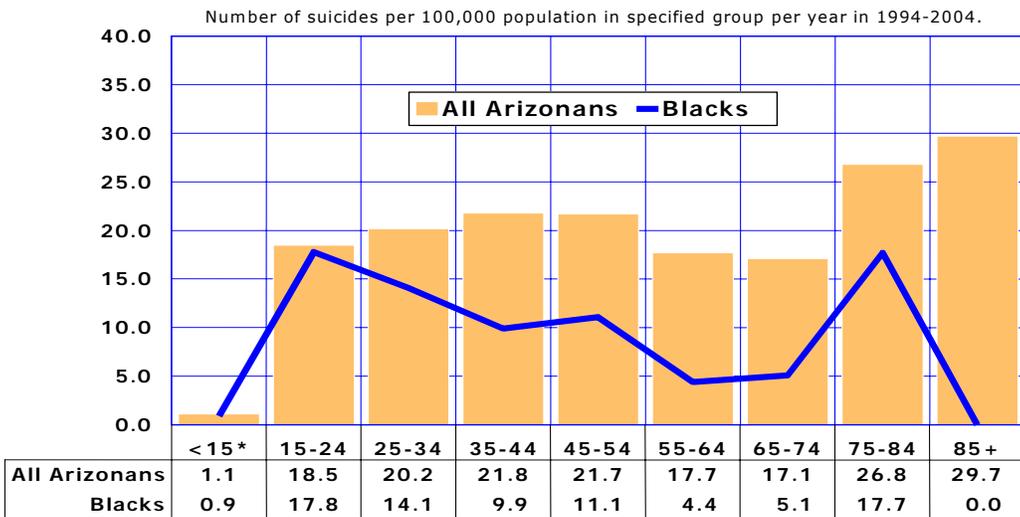
Figure 3-9
Comparison of Average Annual Suicide Mortality Rates by Group Among Asians or Pacific Islanders and All Residents Arizona, 1994-2004



Among Asian or Pacific Islander residents of Arizona none of the average annual (computed for the entire period 1994-2004) age-specific suicide rates exceeded the average rates for all groups (Figure 3-9). The suicide rate among elderly persons 75-84 years old was the highest age-specific rate among Asians or Pacific Islanders.

* 5-14 years old.

Figure 3-10
Comparison of Average Annual Suicide Mortality Rates by Group Among Blacks or African Americans and All Residents Arizona, 1994-2004



Similarly to Asians or Pacific Islanders, also among Blacks or African Americans none of the average annual (computed for the entire period 1994-2004) age-specific suicide rates exceeded the average rates for all groups (Figure 3-10). However, the age-specific suicide mortality curve reflected 3 distinct peaks for Blacks at ages 15-24 years, 45-54 years and 75-84 years.

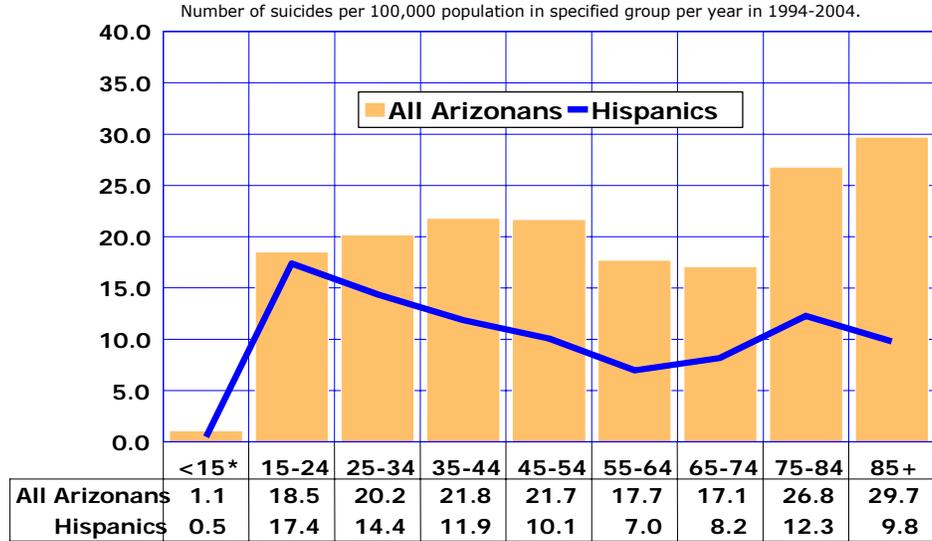
* 5-14 years old.

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

In addition to Asians and Blacks, also among Hispanic or Latino residents of Arizona none of the average annual (computed for the entire period 1994-2004) age-specific suicide rates exceeded the average rates for all groups (Figure 3-11). Among Hispanics or Latino, the age-specific suicide mortality curve was bimodal, reaching its first peak at ages 15-24 years (17.4 suicides per 100,000), tapering off at ages 55-64 (7 suicides per 100,000), and rising to a second peak among the elderly 75-84 years old (12.3 suicides per 100,000).

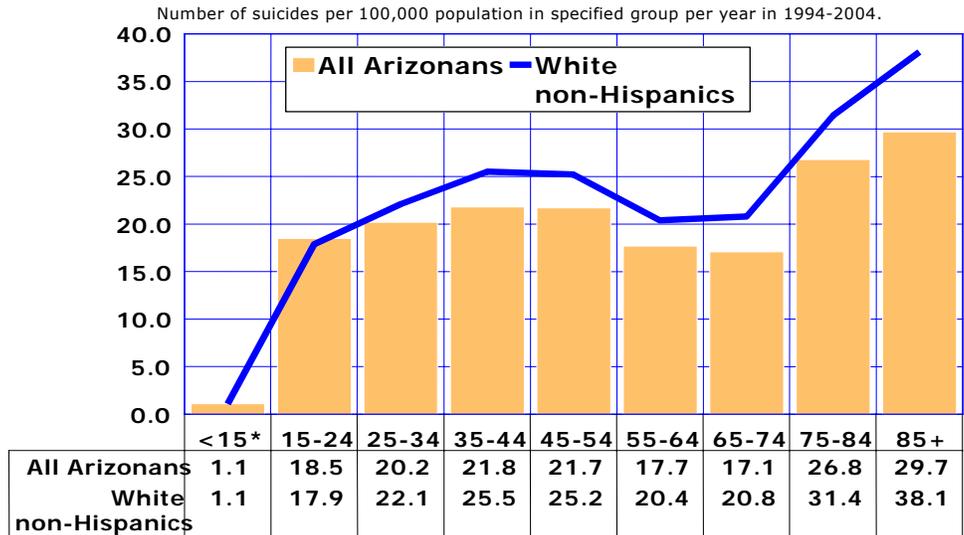
Figure 3-11
Comparison of Average Annual Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group Among Hispanics or Latinos and All Residents of Arizona, 1994-2004



* 5-14 years old.

The age-specific suicide mortality profile of White non-Hispanics (Figure 3-12) can be best contrasted with the American Indian profile (Figure 3-8). Beginning at ages 25-34 years, all of the average annual (computed for the entire period 1994-2004) age-specific suicide rates of White non-Hispanics exceeded the average rates for all groups. The suicide rate among the oldest 85 years or older (38.1 suicides per 100,000 persons per year) was the highest age-specific suicide rate among White non-Hispanic residents of Arizona.

Figure 3-12
Comparison of Average Annual Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group Among White non-Hispanics and All Residents of Arizona, 1994-2004

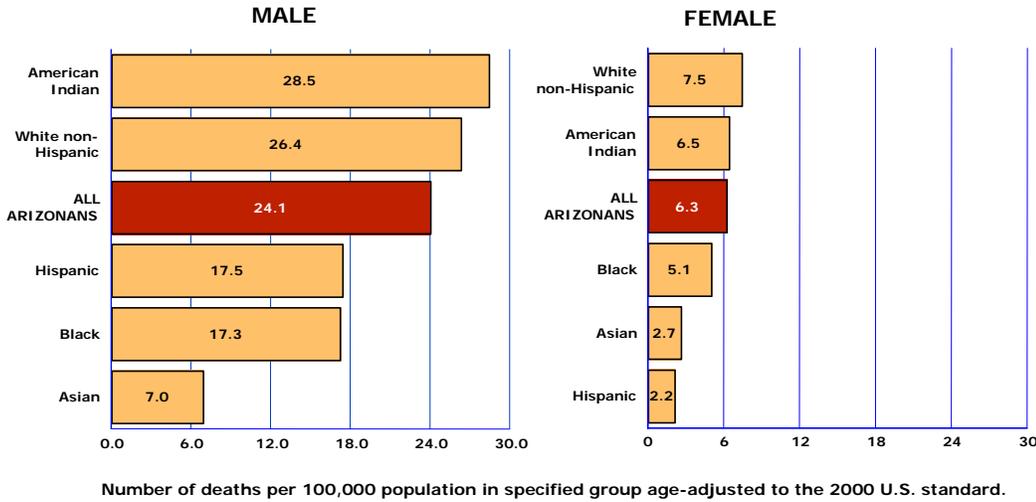


* 5-14 years old.

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

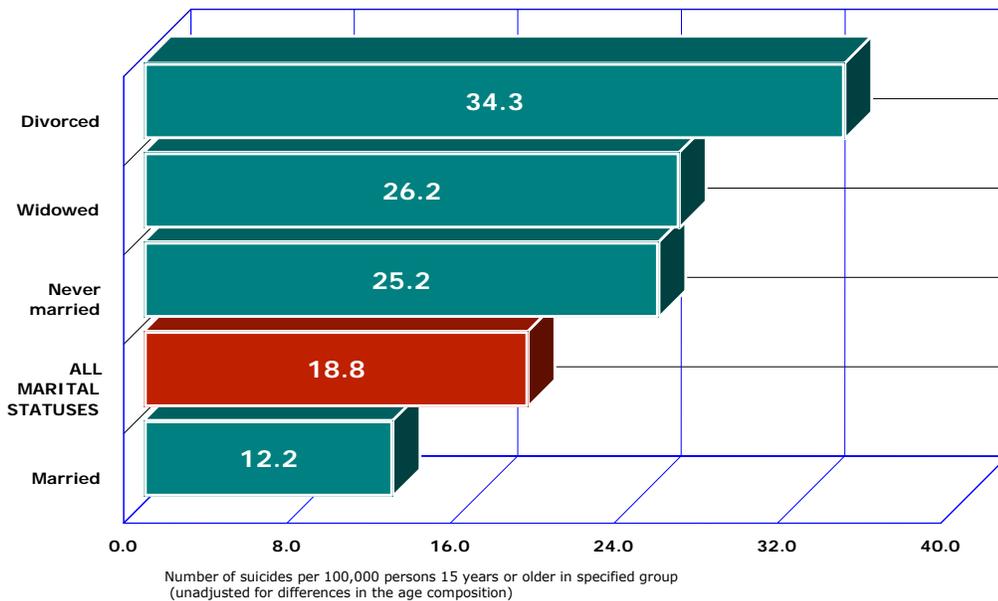
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-13
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Suicide by Gender and Race/Ethnic Group, Arizona, 2004



The age-adjusted suicide rate for American Indian males was the highest gender-specific rate in 2004, followed by White non-Hispanic among the race/ethnic groups in Arizona. Among females, the suicide rate for White non-Hispanics was the highest, followed by the suicide rate of American Indian females (Figure 3-13). Particularly high gender ratio in suicide mortality was evident in 2004 for Hispanics (male rate of 17.5 was 8 times the rate of 2.2 for females).

Figure 3-14
Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) by Marital Status, Arizona, 2004



As in the past, married Arizonans clearly were the least likely to end their own lives in 2004 compared to Arizonans in other marital statuses (Figure 3-14, Table 3-6). Marital disruption in the form of divorce or death of a spouse was a factor that increased the risk of committing suicide. A divorced person was 2.8 times, a widowed person 2.2 times, and a never married person 2.1 times more likely to end his/her own life than a married Arizonan.

KEY FINDINGS

Firearms accounted 58.3 percent of suicides in 2004 (based on data in **Table 3-7**). Hispanic or Latino and White non-Hispanic suicides used firearms more frequently (**Figure 3-15**). Asian or Pacific Islander and American Indian suicides were more likely to die from hanging or strangulation than firearm use. In fact, all of the Asian or Pacific Islander suicides in 2004 died from hanging.

Figure 3-15
Percent Distribution of Suicides by Means of Injury and Race/Ethnic Group, Arizona, 2004

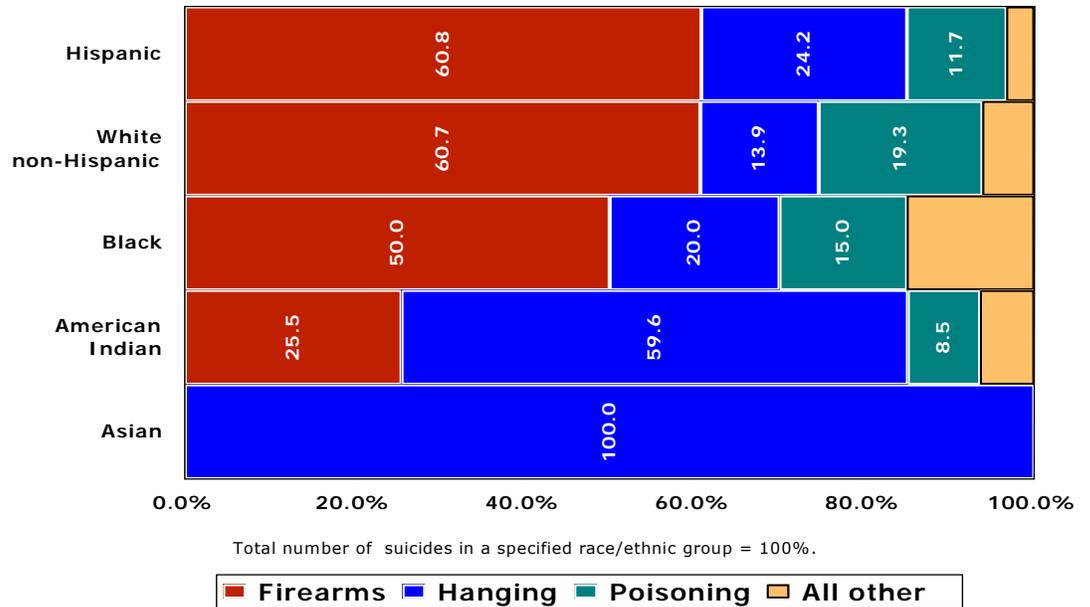
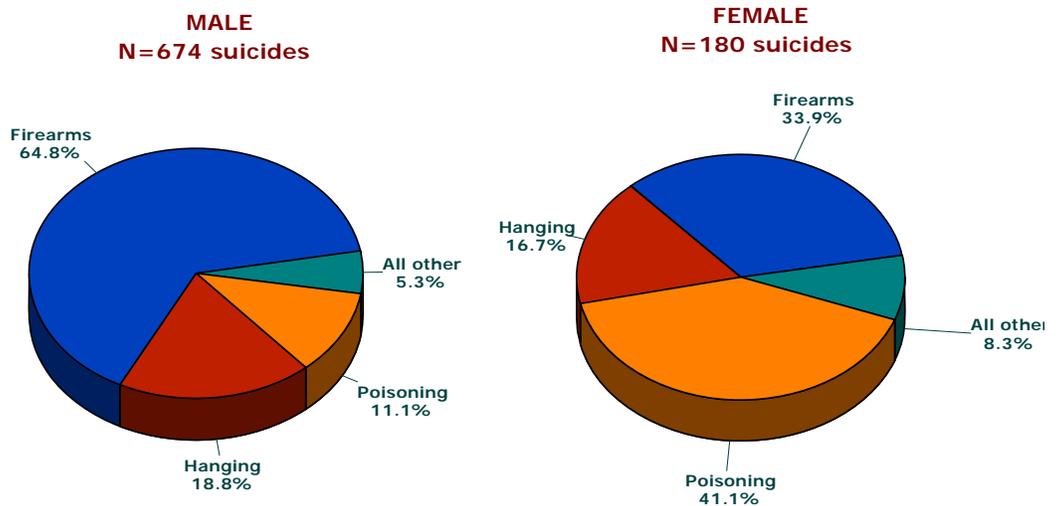


Figure 3-16
Means of Self-Inflicted Injury per 100 Suicides by Gender, Arizona, 2004

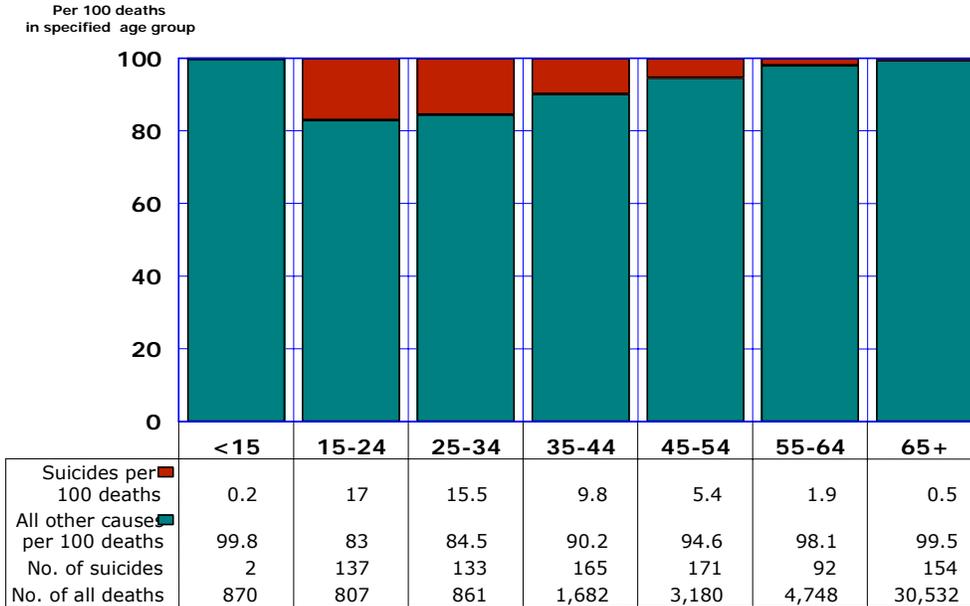
Male suicides used firearms more frequently (64.8 percent) than female suicides (33.9 percent, **Figure 3-16**). In contrast, poisoning accounted for 41.1 percent of female suicides, but 11.1 percent of male suicides in 2004.



INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1994-2004

KEY FINDINGS

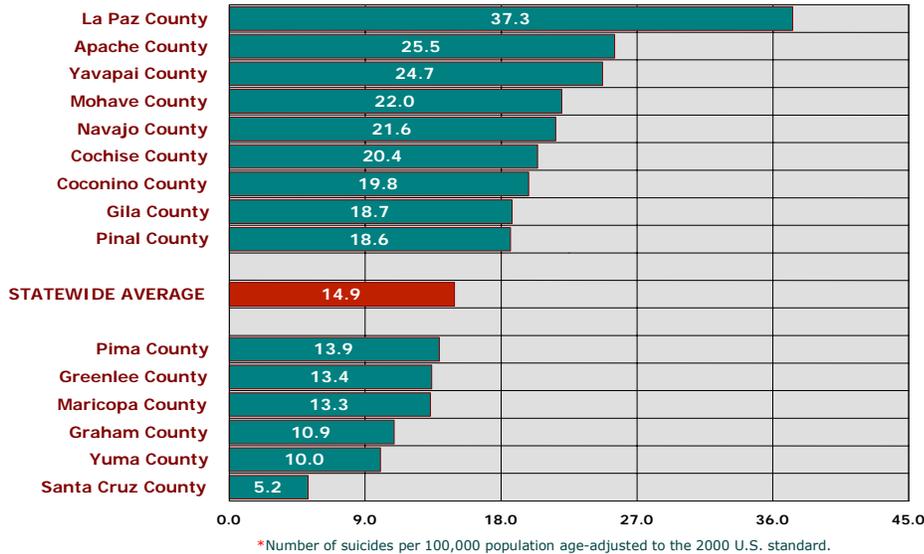
Figure 3-17
Suicides Per 100 Deaths by Age Group,
Arizona, 2004



Suicide has been and continues to be a relatively rare occurrence. In 2004, suicide accounted for 2 percent of the 42,736 total deaths of Arizona residents. Among 30,532 Arizonans aged 65 and older who died in 2004, only 0.5 percent (154 deaths) were suicides (Figure 3-17).

However, the contribution of suicide to total mortality was strongly marked at ages 15-34. One out of six deaths in this age group was a suicide in 2004 (270 suicides among 1,668 total deaths).

Figure 3-18
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm
(Suicide) by County of Residence in Arizona, 2004



Note: The rates for Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties are not statistically reliable. These rates are based on fewer than 10 suicides in 2004.

The age-adjusted suicide mortality rates varied in Arizona in 2004 from 5.2 suicides per 100,000 residents of Santa Cruz County, to 37.3 suicides per 100,000 residents of La Paz County (Figure 3-18, Table 5E-11 in *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2004*). Including La Paz, nine counties exceeded the statewide average rate of 14.9 suicides per 100,000 resident population in 2004.